Discussion with US President on Sanctions

*418 SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter regarding the lifting of sanctions was discussed with US President during his recent visit.

(b) if so, what are the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has made specific study/data on loss to Indian trade and commerce following imposition of sanctions by USA last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Government has used every opportunity to convey to the US including during the visit of President Clinton, that all unilateral restrictions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted. The US has lifted a number of unilateral restrictions imposed on India after the nuclear tests of May, 1998. The US side has not indicated the time frame for lifting the remaining restrictions.

(c) and (d) Under the sanctions, there is a denial of all exports of specified products from USA to specific Indian entities on the Entity List. There are no sanctions on exports by these entities to the USA. The imposition of sanctions by USA is unlikely to have any noticeable impact on Indian trade and commerce.

Continuation of price—Linked purchase preference

*419. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to continue price-linked purchase preference in awarding contracts to the PSUs for some more time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and for what period;

(c) whether it is not against the principle of free competition; and

(d) what has been the response of private sector in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.